(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents Laws. Whenever information is received about the patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged.

**Export of leather**

†305. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) Whether it is a fact that huge amount of foreign currency is earned through export of leather;

(b) if so, what has been the percentage of average export of leather, out of the total export, made by the country during the last few years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that unfinished leather, finished leather, leather articles, shoes, different parts of chappals and shoes are exported from the country in different forms; and

(d) if so, their annual average quantity and value in terms of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. export of leather and leather products and its share of total exports during the last 3 years are given as under :

(value in Rs. Crores)

| Year | India's Total exports | Export of leather and leather products | Share of leather and leather products in the total exports |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 118588.23 | 5700.63 | 4.81% |
| 1997-98 | 129830.39 | 6157.06 | 4.74% |
| 1998-99 | 141603.53 | 6955.77 | 4.91% |

(c) and (d) India has exported finished leather, leather footwear, footwear components, leather garments, leather goods, saddlery and harness and leather gloves as under :

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(Value in Rs. Crores) (Qty in Millions)

| S.N. | Category | 1997-88 | | 1998-99 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Value | Qty | Value | Qty |
| 1. | Finished leather | 1099.44 | 234.03 Sq. ft. | 1131.64 | 223.09 Sq. ft |
| 2. | Leather footwear | 1047.67 | 28.13 pairs | 1238.38 | 26.27 pairs |
| 3. | Footwear components | 893.72 | 41.38 pairs | 1040.03 | 37.82 pairs |
| 4. | Leather garments | 1580.27 | 6.79 pieces | 1572.82 | 6.30 pieces |
| 5. | Leather goods incl. harness & saddlery | 1214.30 | 52.82 pieces | 1598.61 | 62.70 pieces |
| 6. | Leather gloves | 321.63 | 47.43 pairs | 374.28 | 65.04 pairs |
| | TOTAL: | 6157.06 | | 6955.77 | |

There is no export of unfinished leather from India.

**Percentage of export of agricultural Produce**

†306. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of export of agricultural produce to the total export of the country has been decreasing continuously in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the percentage of export of agricultural produce to the total export in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(d) whether it is also a fact that wheat, rice, cotton, sugar, pulses, edible oil have been imported on a large scale in the first ten months of 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(e) if so, the quantity of each produce imported during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) International trade in agricultural commodities is dependent on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, varieties being traded and consumer

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.